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REPORT NO **WBL-7707**

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oHusayni, Hajj Amin

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SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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Palestine

The Mufti and the Egyptian Government

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Further to our No. 112 of August 13th, the following rather more detailed information, dated mid-August, has been received from the same well-placed informant and from other sources as indicated.

According to unpublished press material:

(i) The arms, ammunition, and explosives discovered on the estate belonging to the Mufti at Zeitung, included 50,000 rounds ammunition; 1,000 rifles; 2,000 machine guns; 3,000 Italian bombs; 5,000 grenades; 1,200 Italian mortar shells; and stocks of land mines and other explosives.

2. According to Egyptian public security officials:

(i) Certain foreigners (including an unspecified number of German, Yugoslav and Albanian nationals who were engaged in manufacturing explosives) were arrested at the same time as the arms and explosives were discovered.

(ii) The Cairo authorities found the situation most embarrassing and avoided giving it publicity as far as possible. That the Mufti whilst a guest of King Farouk should engage in these activities, was regarded with strong disapproval.

(iii) A mere denial that the explosives had anything to do with the Cairo bomb outrages was obviously inadequate. A statement was therefore published that the explosives were destined for Palestine, and the Mufti was hurriedly summoned back for an interview with Nokrashi Pasha which took place on August 11th.

3. According to a key official in the Arab League Press Bureau:

(i) Issam Pasha and his staff were well aware that the arms and explosives, although outwardly said to be destined for Palestine, had been placed at the disposal of the Ikhwan el Muslimin and they were in fact used in the bomb outrages against Jewish premises in Cairo.

(ii) The Government had been previously aware of the existence of the Mufti's arsenal, and it was Issam Pasha who suggested the explosives be sent out of Egypt into Palestine. Issam personally interviewed the Director General of the Frontiers Administration after the search took place, and arranged for the arms and explosives to be sent in to Palestine.

4. According to a ^{Nehas Pasha} commissioned by Nehas Pasha to investigate into the Mufti's affairs:

(i) Nehas Pasha strongly suspects that the Mufti's arsenal provided the explosives for the attempt on his house. The

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discovery of the arms has in any case turned the Wafd against the Mufti, to whom they had handed over only recently money subscribed by party-members for Palestine. They now realize that any subscriptions paid to the Mufti will only be diverted to finance his own activities and those of the Ikhwan al Muslimin.

5. According to an Egyptian journalist in close touch with political circles:

(1) Generally this incident has weakened the Mufti's position. Assem Pasha considers him a menace to the Arab cause and a nuisance in Egypt.

(11) The Mufti was intending to leave Egypt with his followers, including certain German technical advisors, his intention being to build up an independent terrorist organization based on Palestine.